



W.^m Parsons Esq.^r

MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE and ADVENTURES

OF

William Parsons, Esq;

From the Time of his Entering into
LIFE, to his DEATH.

BEING

A True and Faithful Narrative of every memorable Occurrence that attended him; interspers'd with several interesting Scenes.

Written by Himself, and Corrected (with Additions) at his own Request by a Gentleman.

Non est mentiri meum.

Ter. Heaut.

Dicique beatus ante obitum nemo

Supremaque funera debet.

Ovid.

L O N D O N :

Printed for F. STAMPER, at *Pope's Head*, in
Pope's-Head-Alley, Cornhill, 1751.

[Price One Shilling.]

MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE AND ADVENTURES

OF

WILLIAM PITT, ESQ;

46

From the Time of his Entering into

Public Life, to his DEATH.

BY JOHN

A True and Faithful Narrative of every remarkable Occurrence that attended him; interspersed with several interesting Scenes.

Written by himself, and Corrected (with Additions) at his own Request by a Gentleman

Not of our own Country.
Designed, drawn, and engraven by
Ogilby.

LONDON:

Printed for B. STAMPER, at Pope's Head, in
Pope's Head-Alley, Cornhill, 1751.
[Price One Shilling]

THE
L I F E
O F
Mr. *William Parsons.*

MR. *Parsons*, the Subject of the following Sheets, was born in *London* in the Year 1717, and was the youngest Son of Sir *William Parsons*, Bart. of *Nottingham*, a Gentleman equally famed for his Worthiness, as his unhappy Son for the contrary. It would be trespassing too much on the Reader's Patience, to enumerate the little Foibles of Mr. *Parsons* before he went to *Eaton* School, which was at the Age of Fourteen ; therefore,

B

omit-

omitting that as immaterial, we shall begin at the Time of his going there. He had not been long at School, e'er he was noted for his little Thefts among his School-fellows; but the Trick he play'd his younger Brother claims our particular Notice: his Aunt (who was the Dutchess of *Northumberland*) gave him and his Brother (now a Clergyman) a Five Guinea Piece each, that they were to shew her every Time she saw 'em; but *Parsons* (who was extravagant from a Child) could not keep his, but soon changed and spent it. About a Month after, they were to go and see their Aunt; but what Excuse to make to her for not shewing it, he (*William*) could not devise; at length his fertile Brain contrived to steal his Brother's Piece out of his Pocket, while he was asleep. The next Day the Brother missing the Piece which he took so much Pleasure in, and big with the Hopes of shewing it the Dutchess, as an Instance of his Respect to her, began to take on very much upon the Account of his Loss, not knowing how he should be able

able to face his Aunt without it ; while, on the contrary, *William* usurped an insulting Triumph over him, and treating him with an insolent Bravado, asked him what a Figure he would make before his Aunt ? The Time however being come, and both before the Dutcheß, she asked to see their Pieces, *William* immediately shewed her his, but the Brother protested with Tears, he had neither spent, nor gave the Piece away, but that he had it in his Pocket at Night when he went to Bed, and miss'd it in the Morning when he rose. The Aunt being mov'd in his Favour, by the softning and innocent Language he made use of to convince her, sent to Dr. *Bland*, Master of *Eaton* School, and desired him to make all the Enquiry he could into the Truth of the Affair, who considering so large a Piece must be taken Notice of in that small Town, made strict Search about it, and found in a short Time, where *William* had changed it ; for which (when they returned to School) he was whip'd till the Skin was flea'd off his Back, and afterwards rubbed with

Pickle ; but all the Punishments he suffered, tho' ever so severe, could never reclaim this unhappy Man, or eradicate that natural Propensity he had for Wickedness,

Our young Hero still continuing his Pranks, and no Hopes of reclaiming him, his Friends took him from *Eaton School*, and he then went to live with his Uncle, Captain *Dutton* of *Epsom*, where he might have been very happy ; and indeed it must be said of him, that during his Stay there (through the good Oeconomy of his Uncle) he appeared sedater, and less given to his Rogueries, than in any Part of his Life before, or since that Time ; but unhappily for *Parsons*, as it afterwards proved, his Uncle took into his Service a Girl, who had something in her agreeable enough to strike the Fancy of the young Gentleman, He resolved to use his utmost Efforts to obtain her, to which End he behaved to her with more Familiarity than to the other Servants, and endeavoured (before he broke his Mind to her) to ingratiate himself into her

her Favour, by doing her several little Offices of Friendship. Now having, as he thought, securely laid the Foundation of his Enterprize, he waited only for an Opportunity to put it in Execution; nor was it long e'er one presented itself, as agreeable as he could wish. Some Business calling his Uncle to *London*, *Parsons*, a Footman, and this young Girl were left behind; the Footman he contrived to send on some frivolous Errand three or four Miles from his Uncle's; he was scarce gone, when *Parsons* took the Opportunity of breaking his Mind to her. The Girl was at first in some Confusion at such an unexpected Declaration, but he protesting he was serious, that he loved her more than Life, and that, would she concede to his Desires, he would be ever constant to her: the Girl fondly believing every Word he said, consented at last to his Entreaties, on his promising to marry her, should she feel the Effects natural to such an Intimacy. They continued their Correspondence about eight Months, when finding herself with
Child,

(16)
Child, she reminded *Parsons* of his Promise of Marriage; on which he (who had never such Intentions) began to look very cool upon her; she growing bigger every Day, and being continually crying, made the Servants at last suspect the Cause of it; they whispering it about, it shortly came to the Ears of his Uncle, who examining the Girl, she, with Tears in her Eyes, confessed her Shame; for which, after taking proper Care of the poor Girl, he sent *Parsons* to his Father; nor did he (so excessively he was irritated) ever forgive him it: and for that and his other Tricks, when Capt. *Dutton* died (some Years after) he cut *Parsons* out of all the large Fortune he designed him, and left it to his Son, that now lives with *Parsons's* Sister, who is Squire *Lambert's* Lady of *Sevenoaks* in *Kent*.

Parsons, after staying some Time at Sir *William's*, went to live with a Relation, Mr. *Elmer* of *Cheshunt* in *Hertfordshire*, a very worthy Gentleman, and Justice of the Peace for the said County; but here playing

ing several slippery Tricks, his Friends were at last determined to send him to Sea, the general Resource of such Sort of Sparks, his Father got him a Post in the Navy, that of Midshipman on Board the *Drake* Man of War, Captain *Fox*, and with that Gentleman he sailed to the *West-Indies*, and continued with him till his Return to *England*. During his short Stay here at that Time, he frequented the Gaming-tables pretty much, where Luck running against him, reduced his Pocket to a low Ebb, he contrived to steal several Things from his Aunt, who (as observed before) was the Dutchess of *Northumberland*: He particularly stole from her, out of her Dressing-room, a Picture set in Gold, that usually hung to her Watch. The Dutchess advertised a large Reward for it, and no Questions asked, but *Parsons* could not devise Means to let her have it; deliver it himself he could not, and he was afraid to trust it to another; so after keeping it some Time, he sold it for the fourth Part of the Sum she offered Reward for it.

Not long after, being at *Buxton* Assembly in *Derbyshire*, he saw a Pair of Shoes in the adjoining Room with Gold Buckles, which one Mr. *Graham* was just going to put on to dance in. *Parsons* immediately mark'd them for his own; and watching his Opportunity, took the Buckles unperceived, and breaking them, sold them as old Gold to a Goldsmith of *Nottingham*. He was not at that Time suspected; but the Goldsmith, hearing that the Gentleman had lost such a Pair of Buckles, sent for him, and told him he had bought such a Pair of *Parsons*, and shew'd him the Pieces: The Gentleman immediately owned them to be his, and probably might have proceeded to punish him; but his worthy Father, being unwilling he should be brought into any Disgrace, made up the Matter for him; and so prevented any ill Consequences, which might otherwise have attended it.

Shortly after, Mr. *Parsons* came to *London*, where he had been scarce a Month,
 be:

Before the following Adventure between him and a certain young Lady, much talk'd of at that Time, befel him : Mr. *Parsons*, walking (as was frequently his Custom) one Day in *St. James's Park*, had a Billet-deux delivered to him by a Footman : Mr. *Parsons*, on receiving it, inquired from whom he brought it ? The Man replied, the Inside, Sir, will inform you ; and then hurried off directly. He was in some Consternation at the Behaviour of the Fellow ; but more so, when, on opening the Letter, he found it contained these Words :

Monday Morn, 10 o'Clock.

S I R,

Notwithstanding Custom has been so prevalent, as to render an Address of this Sort, from our Sex, to be look'd on as forward, and unbecoming a Woman who has the least Tender for her Reputation ; yet I am inclined to believe, as Nature ordained Woman as much, or more, susceptible of that soft Passion Love, as Man, we

C

ought

ought to have the same Privilege as they to disclose it: It was these Principles that induced me to act in this open Manner. You must know, Sir, I have secretly had the Pleasure of often seeing you in the very Place you now receive this Letter. There was something (without Flattery I speak it) so unaccountably agreeable in your Person, that I could not refrain wishing myself happy in your Acquaintance, I would say Love; but have used many Endeavours to accomplish it to little Purpose, 'till fancying you a young Gentleman who, like the rest of the *Beau Monde*, frequent most publick Places; I thought, could I discover you, the Masquerade the most convenient Opportunity for me to disclose myself to you. To this End, I repaired there last *Thursday* three Weeks, but was excessively chagrined, I could not by any means discern you, though I am since very well informed you was there. Now, Sir, if you are willing to oblige a Lady who really loves you, who is neither ugly nor old, and has Fortune in Plenty; [this you may think favours too much

much of Vanity; but *Dryden* says, there's a Time when we may be allowed to praise ourselves.] I beg you will be at the ensuing Masquerade, dress'd in a yellow Silk Domine, a black Silk Mask, and a Gold Laced Hat, with a blue Cockade. Your Compliance with this Request will lay a lasting Obligation on her, whose only Wish is to be esteemed

Your real Admirer,

CLEOMIRA.

Mr. *Parsons* was a long while dubious how to behave on this Occasion; he was not to learn, that many Tricks of this Sort were frequently played by young Sparks on their Companions, to try their Vanity, and afford themselves a little Mirth; and on the other Hand, he was certain many beneficial Amours have begun in this Manner; the little Money Mr. *Parsons* had was now, through Gaming, at a low Ebb; he

C 2

formed

formed to himself (should this Affair prove real) the many Advantages that would result from it ; he painted in his Mind the Pleasures that would attend the Possession of a fine Woman, who had Sufficiency of Fortune to augment her Beauty ; he therefore wisely considered it better to stand the Brunt of his Companions Jokes, should it prove so, than hazard the Loss of the Lady, by neglecting to dress as desired, should it happen otherwise. Elated with the Hopes of the last Thought, every Hour seemed to him an Age till the Time. At length the happy Day arrived, Mr. *Parsons* repaired to *Mumford's*, and from thence (after accoutering him agreeable to the fair One's Request) took Coach, and drove to the appointed Place. He directed, with wishing Eyes, his Looks alternately to every Lady in the Room, without discovering the least Notice to be taken of him, by one more than another. Two Hours were past, and no Signs of his Charmer's appearing ; this raised some Reflections in Mr. *Parsons* on his Folly in crediting the Letter ; he

fancied

fancied every one who looked on him, was acquainted with the whole Affair, and was laughing at him for his Vanity; then recall'd himself again with the pleasing Hopes of its yet terminating as happy as he could wish: He saw, and spoke to many of his Companions, and not one of them dropt the least Hint that might incline him to surmise it a Plot of theirs. He consol'd himself with the Thoughts of the Lady's being not then come, and resolved to abstain, for that Night, from the Gaming-table (his usual Recourse, and indeed the only Thing that drew him to resort to those Places) lest his Eagerness of Play might deprive the Lady of the Opportunity of disclosing herself to him, so much Company generally being round that Place. Mr. *Parsons* had scarce made this Determination, when a genteel Lady (who had a little before entered the Room, dressed in the Habit of an *Indian* Princess) accosted him with the usual Question, Do you know me? He answered her in the Negative. She returned, I presume, Mr. *Parsons*, tho' he

he has no personal Knowledge of me, is too much the polite Gentleman, to refuse accompanying a Lady home, who requests it of him as a Favour.

At the mentioning of his Name, Mr. Parsons doubted not but this was the fair *Incognito* he had so long earnestly wished for; he told her, no Person (without deviating from the Man) but must esteem it as the highest Honour, to have it in his Power to be serviceable to the Fair, especially one, who, to him, appeared the most accomplished of her Sex. She made him no Answer, but presented her Hand, and he ushered her to her Coach, into which he followed; she told him, as they went, that *she* was the Person who sent him that Letter; that she was not married, nor could marry, having a large Fortune which went from her if ever she commenced a Wife; that if he could think himself happy in her Love, her Purse and Person were both his own. By this Time the Coach stops at a House in *Bond-street*, where he was

con-

conducted by the Lady into a genteel Room, tho' not, he thought, gay enough for a Lady of that Quality he had conceived her to be. Mr. Parsons, as soon as in the Room, intimated his Desire to see the Lady's Face to whom he was so much indebted; for she was yet masked; And will not you, said she, when you see this Face, and find it not so agreeable as you could wish, recal your Promises, and reject me? But be it as it will, I'll trust you. But who can paint the Astonishment he was in, when, from under that Vizard, appeared the Face of the so much celebrated Miss E—s? He told her, tho' he never had the Honour to be personally acquainted with her, yet the Fame of her Beauty had reached his Ears, as had afterwards her Face his Sight, and from that Hour he had admired her, tho' he never durst presume to disclose his Passion to her. Flattery and Deceit were Parsons's peculiar darling Qualities, and no one, tho' he was so young, could use them to more Advantage than he, when Gain was the chief Motive of

of his employing them. These Talents Nature had liberally bestow'd on him: He was formed to deceive; he had a Tongue, (as King *Richard* says) would wheedle with the Devil: He had so much Softness, and so much seeming Sincerity in his Looks and Words, that it was scarce possible for a Man to believe he would assert a Lie, till he caught him in the Falshood. No Wonder he exercised these Abilities so much at that Juncture with Miss *E——*; he had no more than to talk, and he was sure to be believed. In fine, he lay there that Night, nor would he in the Morning part from her, till she had promised him the same Happiness again. She told him what indeed Mr. *Parsons* knew as soon as he had seen her Face, that it was not her own House, she having taken these Lodgings on Purpose, that she might see him with more Freedom; that they must never meet at her own Home, lest the Intrigue should be discovered by Lord —— who she doubted not but he had heard liv'd at that Time with her. The Appointment
was

was made for the following *Sunday* at the same Place ; and from this Day Mr. *Parsons* secretly kept Company with her for a long Time, during which Space, she supplied him with several Sums of Money, and the Correspondence might probably have continued till her Death, had not the following odd Affair prevented it. Mr. *L——s*, a Gentleman who had been extravagant, and spent the greatest Part of his Income, took it in his Head, on hearing she had quarrelled with Lord ——, if he could inveigle himself into Favour with Miss *E——s*, he need not for the future want Money. Mr. *L——s* was a young Fellow about twenty-two Years of Age, was bred up at the University, and had acquired some Accomplishments in Fencing, Dancing, Musick, &c. with these Qualifications he flattered himself he might easily attain his Ends. To this Purpose, he found Means to get himself introduced into her Company, and thenceforward was a continual Plague to her at all public Places. She grew at length so

D tired

tired with him, that she desired Mr. *Parsons* to find Means to pick a Quarrel with *L——s*, and then challenge him ; I am sensible, said she, he has no Spirit, and will not answer it; after which Act of Cowardice, I dare believe he will not presume to trouble me any more. Mr. *Parsons* concurred with every Thing she said, and promised to do as she desired. When he was gone (as it was not agreeable to Mr. *Parsons's* Temper to fight, and which he feared would be the Consequence of challenging Mr. *L——s*) he thought it more prudent to devise Means to get a Sum of Money of her, and then finally desert her ; chusing rather to lose the Supplies he so frequently received from her, than hazard his Life to humour her Resentment. The next Day he told Miss *E——s* he had seen *L——s*, and quarrelled with him ; but that, as she said, he refused to fight him, for which, he had can'd him before several Gentlemen in the Park. She was extremely pleased with this Account, and entertained *Parsons* with, seemingly, more Love than

than ever. He ingratiated himself so far into her Esteem by this Action, that he found it no hard Matter, that very Night, to talk her out of two hundred Pounds, with which, in the Morning, he marched off, and for Shame never went near her more.

He shortly after went as Midshipman on Board the ROMNEY Man of War, under the Command of Captain (now Admiral) MEDLEY, with whom he went two or three Voyages to *Newfoundland*; during which Time, *Parsons* (whose Mind was ever full of Mischief, still studying some new Way of Cheating) practised many dirty Tricks on Board the Ship, such as gaming with false Dice, mark'd Cards, &c. for which at last he was so known, that scarce any of the Officers (tho' inferior to him in Family) would deign to keep him Company.

But he so far ingratiated himself (tho' his specious Pretences) into the Favour of

Mr. ———, the then Surgeon of the *Romney*, that he lent *Parsons* fifty Pounds on a Bill he drew on his Father; but when the Note was carried to Sir *William*, he refused to accept it, as well he might, for had he supported his Extravagancies in such a Manner, he would have found no End of them; nor did Mr. ——— ever get any thing of *Parsons* for it.

Mr. *Parsons* had perhaps as great a Genius for Tricking, as any Man in the World; and the artful Manner he supplied himself with Money from several young Ladies in *Newfoundland*, deserves the Publick's Notice.

He used, when in their Company on Shore, to pretend to admire their *Snuff-Boxes, Rings, &c.* which he had no sooner in his Hand, than, with a genteel Air, he put them in his Pocket, saying, they were mighty pretty Things, and he would keep them for their Sakes; and so laughing the Ladies out of them, he used afterwards to
con-

convert them into Cash: But the most particular Affair of that Nature was with one Miss *Hallet*; having got a Snuff-Box of her in the Manner before described, she complained to her Father, who making some Stir about it, *Parsons* was obliged to refund it back again; but observing the old Gentleman to put it in a Corner-Cupboard, he found an Opportunity, while Mr. *Hallet* was out of the Room, and Miss busy in Talk with her Company, to finger it once again unperceived, and went away with it, devoid of all Suspicion; and notwithstanding the Complaints of Miss and her Papa, *Parsons* utterly denied having it, and seem'd to resent greatly the Injury they did him, in calling his Honour in Question in such a scandalous Manner.

Soon after this, the Ship returned to *England*, which, as near as Mr. *Parsons* could remember, was about the Commencement of the *Spanish* War.

Mr.

Mr. *Parsons*, after his Discharge from the Ship, lived a very extravagant Life; and Gaming higher than his Income would allow, was obliged to have Recourse again to his ill Practices.

Accordingly, he went to one Mrs. *S—b* in *Red-Lion-street Holborn*, and took a genteel First Floor unfurnished; which done, he went to an Upholsterer near *Covent-Garden*, and bespoke Goods of him to near the Value of eighty-six Pounds, and ordered them, when ready, to be carried to Mrs. *S—b*'s aforesaid. In the mean while, he repaired to Mr. *C—*, a Broker in *Moor-fields*, and told him, that he had lately bought a Parcel of Furniture for a First Floor, quite new; but urgent Business requiring his Presence abroad, for perhaps two Years, he thought it more adviseable to sell them, than let them stand unemployed such a considerable Time. Mr. *C—* agreed to go with him to view the Goods, and assured him he would give as great a
Price

Price for them as any of his Trade whatever. *Parsons* pretended he was going out of Town, and that as soon as he returned, which would be in a Week, he would let him know. This done, he only waited the Upholsterer's sending in the Goods, which he did in about five Days after. *Parsons* was ready there to receive them, and asked the Man for his Bill, who not having it, he ordered him to desire his Master to come himself with it in two or three Days Time, and he would pay him. No sooner was the Man gone, than he went for the Broker, who, after viewing them, agreed to give him sixty-two Pounds twelve Shillings for them, and fetch them away the next Morning. Mr. *Parsons*, to avoid any Suspicion, told Mrs. S——b, that was the Upholsterer himself; that, upon better Consideration, he had agreed to go to a higher Price, and he, the Upholsterer, would come the next Day to fetch them away, and bring him genteeler Furniture in their room. Accordingly, early in the Morning, Mr. C—— came with a Cart for the Goods;

Goods; and as soon as they were packed up, *Parsons* received the Cash. Mr. C—— took away the Things, and Mrs. S——b and the Upholsterer were left to get their Money as they could.

Parsons, who had generally the Luck to surmount the Difficulties attending every Enterprize of this Nature that he undertook, was seldom the better for it; for what he had taken so much Pains to defraud People of, he sometimes lost in one Night at the Gaming-table; of the Truth of which the subsequent Story is a very particular Instance.

Mr. *Parsons* being, two or three Days after this Exploit, at a Masquerade in the *Hay-market*, had the Misfortune to lose all the Money, at Play, he had taken such Trouble to cheat the Upholsterer of, and could not for a long Time devise Means wherewith he might retrieve his bad Luck; till (as Necessity is ever the Mother of Invention) he bethought him of counterfeiting
a Pro-

a Promissory Note of 30 *l.* in the Name of an eminent Tradesman of St. *James's* Street, well known to many present, payable to Mr. *J—s*, Merchant of *Thames-street*, one Month after Date, in Hopes with the Credit of that, to play with it, and repair his broken Fortune. No sooner thought on than put in Execution ; he went into another Room, drew it up, and set Mr. *J—s's* Name on the Back thereof. Now flushed with the Hopes of Success, he repaired to the Table, and produced the Note with Mr. *J—s's* Indorsement on the Back ; on which a Lady, who at the Beginning of the Evening was his Partner, called him aside, and said, that she could not imagine any Person, whose Behaviour had so much the Appearance of a Gentleman, would endeavour to impose a false Note on the Company for a true one ; and having myself, said she, some Knowledge of the Person who wrote it, I will, if agreeable to you, discount it, without requiring any Premium. Mr. *Parsons* gladly embraced this Offer, as the Lady seemed to be a

E

perfect

perfect Stranger to him, and therefore he wisely imagined, when the Fraud came to be detected, she would then, by no Means, be able to trace the Deceiver. Madam, returned *Parsons*, the Favour you confer on me, being unknown to you, is of so high a Nature, that, had I the Happiness of your Acquaintance, it would never be in my Power hereafter to return the Obligation ; he then tendered the Note to the Lady, who in return gave him the Money in a curious Purse ; which last she desired he would accept of. Mr. *Parsons* very politely thanked her, and they parted. He went directly to the Table, resolved to retrieve his former Loss, or lose the Thirty Pound he had just procured at the Hazard of Life ; but Fortune, who is ever fickle, still inconstant as the Winds and Waves, seem'd now to court the very Man whose Suit she had so lately rejected : In short, Mr. *Parsons's* Luck turn'd to so good an Account, that, in the Space of two Hours, he was Master of near Three Hundred Pounds ; about which Time the Company
broke

broke up, and the Lady, who was an Eye-witness of Part of his Success, congratulated him on his good Fortune. Mr. *Parsons*, in Return, though not a Man of the strictest Honour, thought it an indispensable Duty in him to request the Note of the Lady again, on his repaying the Money; but could not, with the most persuasive Eloquence he was Master of, induce her to take it; she told him that Notes were less cumbersome to her than Cash; that perhaps, tho' she ask'd Pardon for surmising it, *he* might have present Use for the Money, which *she* had not: Mr. *Parsons* begg'd then, in a very polite Manner, he might have the Pleasure of guarding his good Genius, as he was pleas'd to term her, home: *That*, which was the main Point she aimed at, she, with a seeming Reluctance, refused; but he pressing her again, she comply'd, and he conducted her to a Hackney-Coach she had kept in waiting. Their Conversation, as they went, was for the most Part on ordinary Subjects, as they occasionally occurr'd; when the Coach,

E 2

stopping

stopping near *Compton-street*, *Sobo*, put an End to their Discourse. The Lady desired Mr. *Parsons* to walk in; but he, having no Desire to be seen, begg'd to be excused. She told him it would be a Breach of good Manners she could never pardon herself for, if she should permit a Gentleman, who had behaved with so much Politeness, to depart without drinking a Glass of Wine with her. He could not well tell how to come handsomely off, and was therefore necessitated to accept her Offer: The Lady's Intentions were too flagrant to be concealed from such an Eye as *Parsons's*; the only Thing he wanted was to see her Face, that, if he did not know her, he might unmask too, but was determin'd, if he should, not to discover himself at any Rate; to which Purpose, after his usual Manner of Flattery, he address'd her in this Manner: "Tho' I have not, Madam, had the Pleasure of seeing you unmask'd, yet am I certain, Nature, that has been so lavish in your Person, and bestow'd on you such a bewitching Tongue, must like-

likewise give you at the same Time, to make you entirely compleat, a beautiful Face; but even, were it otherwise, there appears to me something so agreeable in your every Word and Action, that, tho' guilty of the highest Presumption in declaring it, I should be the most insensible Creature living not to be touch'd with them." "As to my Face, Sir, (says the Lady, unmasking) I will satisfy you; but, continues she, Flattery is a Quality so natural to your Sex, that I should have wonder'd, if I had not heard something of this Sort from you; but, were it not so, it would be out of my Power to return it; for I am, says she sighing, married." "And is that all, said *Parsons*, who on finding he did not know the Lady, had likewise pulled off *his* Mask, is that all your Objections?" and pressing her Hand with some Eagerness, "Shall generous Love, said he, be obstructed by a foolish Ceremony, by a Form of Words contrived by Priests for Gain? Oh! no (still eagerer, and putting his Hands

Hand upon her heaving Bosom) Love is
and ever will be free."

The Lady, who was now in a fair Way of satisfying her Intentions, had, or would have, no Power to resist him. The Reader, after this, cannot doubt but he was made as happy as he could wish. In short, he lay with her that Night, but waking in the Morning about eleven o'Clock, and thinking to turn to his fair Bedfellow, found she had given him the Slip. *Parsons*, in a great Surprise, jumped out of Bed to his Breeches, 'when, Oh direful! instead of his Money, he found they contained nothing but the following Letter :

S I R,

I Charge you, as you value your Life, not to dare mention what has happened, either to the People of this House or any one else. I saw you last Night under the utmost Despondency for losing your Money; I saw you go^d into the next Room, and there, tho' you thought yourself unseen,

seen, observed you write the very Note I am now in Possession of. I took it, not for any particular Esteem I had for you, but to serve myself; for I was sure I should have *more* than my own Money again: For, had you lost the thirty Pounds, I should have told you of your Forgery, so was certain, you would have contrived some Means to pay me, besides making me a handsome Present to conceal it; and my Intentions were, if you won, (as you happened to do) to inveigle you in, to serve you as I have now done; and yet, Sir, I must be bold to tell you, that, perhaps, I have saved your Life; for, had any Person else chanced to have taken up the Note, the Cheat might have been detected, and you secured. Therefore, as I have kept you from Hanging, I think you may be glad you have escaped so well. So, (remembering that your Life depends upon your Silence) adieu.

Yours, &c.

Par-

Parsons, upon the Perusal of the Letter, was like a Madman; but as Passion abated, Reflection gradually supply'd the Place: He thought he had better hold his Tongue, than by his Folly in divulging it, endanger his own Life; so, without taking the least Notice, he went down Stairs, resolving to be more cautious for the future. *Mr. Parsons* confessed, *that* was the only Time he was ever *taken in*, during his whole Life. He was sorry for nothing so much, as that he, who had trick'd such Numbers of People before, should at last himself be so egregiously over-reached by a Woman.

Being so much in Debt, and pretty near exhausted as to Cash, his Friends importuned him to go in the Capacity of a Writer to *Africa*, in the Service of that Company; to which he consented, and in a short time set out to pursue his Voyage; but on being told, when he arrived there, what an unhealthy Climate it was, he never went on Shore, but came from thence to *Jamaica*,
where

where he staid some Time, till finding he began to want Money, he counterfeited a Letter, as from his Aunt the Dutchess of Northumberland, setting forth, she would be answerable for any Sum of Money he had, not exceeding seventy Pounds. Accordingly, he shew'd this forged Letter of Credit to a Merchant of that Place, who, on *Parsons's* drawing a Draught on his Aunt for the Sum limited, paid him the Cash. But thinking it not safe to stay there till the Return of the Draught, which he knew would be rejected, came over to *England* much about the same Time as did the Draught to his Aunt, who told the Bearer she knew nothing of it; that she had wrote no such Letter to her Nephew, neither would she pay it; and was so much irritated at his making use of her Name, that she disinherited him, and left twenty-five thousand Pounds to his Sister, which she had before bequeathed to him. The Merchant, finding he could not get his Money from the Aunt, and having found where *Parsons* lodged, took some Officers with

F him,

*Grace Parsons - wife of Thomas Lambard Esq
 of Sevenoaks - Kent - My great great
 grandmother*

him, and went to take him; but he, being apprized of it, got over some Houses, and made his Escape. However, his Father, to screen him from Danger this Time, paid the Merchant the Money, and took up the Draught.

Parsons, after this Affair, behaved for some time pretty well, and began to be better respected by several of his Relations; and having the Honour to be the Son of a very worthy Gentleman, he, with that Sanction, made his Addresses to a young Lady, whose Merit, as well as Fortune, was deserving of a much better Husband; for she is possessed of every Qualification that can tend to render a Woman esteemed, and had twelve thousand Pounds. He had the good Fortune to ingratiate himself into her Favour, gained her Consent, and was married to her in *February* 1740. He had four thousand Pounds paid him in Money, and with the remaining eight thousand, her Relations purchased Exchequer-Tallies; and *Parsons* was annually to receive the Interest
of

of them. This was done by her Friends, as a Precaution against her Husband's Extravagancies. Shortly after his Marriage, he entered the Army, the Beginning of the Year 1741, and had the Honour of an Ensign's Commission in Colonel *Cholmondeley's* Regiment of Foot. *Parsons* now made a very gay Appearance, and liv'd in a genteel Manner in *Poland-street*; but still following that pernicious Practice of Gaming, he soon reduced his four thousand Pounds, and was obliged, for a fresh Supply, to sell Part of his Exchequer-Annuities for his Life.

At this Time, he took in a *Jew* Broker, in a very extraordinary Manner; he went to him, and told him, he had Exchequer-Tallies to dispose of for his Life, to the Amount of four thousand Pounds, (which Tallies he shew'd him) and if he chose the Job, he would employ him. The *Jew* gladly embraced the Offer, and promised to wait on him in a Day or two; but neglecting coming near a Week, *Parsons* went

to him in a seeming great Passion, told him he used him ill, and should have nothing to do with him. The *Jew*, with great Submissiveness, informed him he had been about the Affair the whole Time, and that he had almost compleated it: But *Parsons* told him, he had an immediate Call for his Money, or at least *some* of it, that *very* Day, and that, if he could not procure him a thousand Pounds directly, he would apply to some other Person. The *Jew* desired he would not do that, for he would certainly get him that Sum by the Morning, and the rest in two or three Days; to which *Parsons* consented, telling him, to oblige him, he would postpone it to that Time; for, as he believed him a very honest Man, he would rather employ him than another. The *Jew*, mightily elated at his Condescension, thanked him over and over; and then, for that Day, they parted. On the morrow, agreeable to his Promise, he brought *Parsons* the thousand Pounds, and told him, he should have the rest in three Days; but when he came, no
Mr.

Mr. *Parsons* was to be seen, for he had fold his Tallies elsewhere; and the Jew, after much Trouble, was obliged to rest contented with his Loss; for he never received a Farthing of it back again.

But, to return, when *Parsons* had been in the Army about three Years, he was raised to the Rank of a Lieutenant; and the Regiment he was in, being ordered to *Flanders*, he was obliged to attend it.

When abroad, he began to play several dirty Tricks; he took in several People under Pretension of his Father's being dead, particularly he contracted with a Person for Cloathing for the whole Regiment, pretending he had Commission so to do, which he had no sooner got, but with them, and other Things he had procured, he left his Regiment at *Ostend*, and made the best of his Way to *England*; but, upon a proper Representation of his Tricks abroad to his R—— H—— the D——, he ordered his Commission to be fold, and the Money raised

raised upon it was distributed among the People he had cheated.

After his Return from *Flanders*, he began anew his old Pranks: He took the front House in *Panton-Square*, which he furnished in a very genteel Manner; he had Silver Plate of a Goldsmith to a large Amount; bespoke two Pair of Town Harnesses of a certain Person near *Charing-Cross*, (tho' at the same Time had neither Coach nor Horse) besides several other Tradesmen thereabouts, and ordered them all to bring in their Bills on one Day (which he appointed) to take a Dinner with him, and he would pay them; but when the Day was come, and the Tradesmen went, agreeable to his Orders, the House, to their great Disappointment, was shut up, tho' he was still in it: He lived in the House near a Year, three Parts of which Time it was shut close, as if uninhabited; his only Way to go in and out being backwards through a Stable-Yard. It was at last broke open by Order of the Landlord; but there

there was scarce any Furniture left in the House, except what served their necessary Occasions. He was not found there, having escaped backwards.

About the Time of his living in in *Panton-Square* he formed a very base Design against his Sister, which was as follows: He agreed with a Fellow (formerly a Footman) to run away with his Sister, who had Twenty-five Thousand Pounds to her Fortune, out of which *Parsons* was to have a very valuable Consideration. The Scheme was to be excuted in the following Manner: *Parsons* was to propose to his Sister, her making one in a Party of Pleasure; the Fellow (with some Accomplices) were to *way-lay* them home, seize her, carry her away by Force, and frighten her into a Compliance; his Sister, at that Time, lodg'd in *Spring-Gardens*; her Maid was let into the Secret, and bound to their Service, by a Bond of five hundred Pounds, to be paid her on the happy Conclusion of their Stratagem.

A Scheme thus laid, they did not doubt but wou'd succeed; but the Party-colour'd Gentleman, too much elated with the pleasing Hopes of Success, appeared publicly in gay Cloaths (with which he was supply'd by *Parsons*) went to a Milliner's near where the young Lady lodg'd, and bespoke some fine *Dresden* Ruffled-Shirts, &c. and was so imprudent as to tell the Milliner, he was going to be married to Miss *Parsons*, Niece and Heiress of the Dutchess of *Northumberland*. As he was telling her this Story, a Lady came into the Shop, who as soon as he had ey'd, in some Confusion, he took his Leave; when the Lady, questioning the Milliner *who* that Gentleman was, she said he was a Stranger to her, but was going to be married to Miss *Parsons*: Married to Miss *Parsons*! (returned the Lady) why he was once my Footman. The Lady who happened to be her Acquaintance went immediately to her and told her what she had heard. She, suspecting it to be some Trick, declined going out; the Maid confessed the whole

whole Affair to her, and she directly mov'd her Lodgings.

Parsons generally kept close in the Day, and Beaving out at Night, would go to the Gaming-Tables, Masquerades, Plays &c. Coming from the last of which one Night, he had a Letter gieven him by a Man, who told him he must wait an Answer. *Parsons* opened it, and found the following Words.

S I R,

IF you are a Man fond of Gallantry, you will come with the Bearer (who has a Chair in Waiting) to one, who is a great Admirer of your Perfections.

Yours,

CLARINDA.

Mr. *Parsons* desired a Person who was with him (for Reasons he might another Time acquaint him with) to follow the Chair at a small Distance, till he saw him housed: This he did as a Precaution to prevent any Mischiefs that might ensue, should

G

it

it prove only a Pretence ; and then bid the Man lead on. He got into the Chair in *Russel-street*, and was carried into *Mount-street, Grosvenor-Square* ; he was shewn up Stairs into a Chamber, where the only Light was from a Lanthorn, that faintly shone through some Panes of Glass, fixed over the Room-Door, but so contrived, that tho' you might see any Person that was in it, yet it was impossible to know them. He had not waited long before the Lady entered : Mr. *Parsons* paid his Compliments to her, which she thus returned : " Sir, you may look upon it as something uncommon for a Lady to *begin* an Affair of this Nature ; but I am persuaded you cannot be such a Stranger to your personal Qualifications, as not to be sensible of the Power they have over many of *our* Sex : How much they triumph over me, my breaking the usual Formalities (in addressing you first) may well inform you." Mr. *Parsons*, who was never at a Loss on these Occasions, return'd her a very polite Answer, in which he told her, the only Reason

son he had to believe he was possessed of any thing attractive, was the Confession of its Power over so agreeable a Lady as she appeared to be. It will be unnecessary to tire the Reader's Patience with a Repetition of the Whole they said; for after such an open Declaration, it is easy to conceive what followed. In short, the Parties spent the Night as agreeable as they could wish, nor did *Parsons* once ask to whom he was obliged for so high a Favour, leaving that (if he chanced to know her) to be discovered by the Morning's Light. About Ten o'Clock she desired him to let her rise first, that she would dress, and open the Shutters; and then, said she, while I am ordering Breakfast, you may get up. *Parsons*, who suspected nothing, agreed to her Proposal; but she was no sooner dressed, than she opened the Door, and vanished in a Moment. He lay for some Time pretty quiet; but perceiving she did not return, hastily rose up to open the Windows, but, to his great Surprise, found them nailed up; he then put on Part of his Cloaths,

and knock'd with his Shoe upon the Floor, and in came an old Woman with a Candle, of whom he enquired after his fair Elover; but, instead of an Answer, she gave him the following Note, and withdrew.

S I R,

IF you spent the last Night agreeable enough to wish for such another, you will come about Ten on *Saturday* Night to the same Place, where you shall not fail of meeting,
Yours,

(tho' known) yet unknown,

CLARINDA.

Mr. *Parsons*, as soon as he had perused it, dressed himself, and without any farther Enquiry, went away. He resolved, however, to come again, and, if possible, find out the Lady; to which End he provided himself with a small Wax Candle, and all Materials to make a Light: At length the appointed Hour arrived, when, full of the Hopes of Success, he repaired to the Place, where

where he found the Lady in the same Room as before. After some few Congratulations, natural to such a Meeting, *Parsons* and the Lady went to Bed, where he had not been an Hour before he pretended to fall fast asleep; nor was it long after e'er the Lady really slept without counterfeit-ing. Presently he crept softly out of Bed, and taking his Utensils from his Pocket, gently struck a Light, and lighted the Candle, when drawing the Curtains, he found, to his utmost Astonishment, it was the present Lady ———, otherwise *Lady Frail*; not but he believed her *such* a Person, only thought her more open in her Amours, than to take those Precautions to conceal herself. *Parsons* was in some Perplexity whether he had best wake her, when seeing her Snuff-box lie in the Chair, he dropt his Intention, put out the Light, clapp'd his Things and the Box in his Pocket, and stole to Bed again, without disturbing the Lady. In the Morning she would fain have got from him as before, but he insisted on knowing who she was, which she as positively denied; he told her then he would

would come no more: "Nor ever do, (said she, breaking from him with all her Strength.) Am I to be threatened into a Compliance? No, nor you *shall* not ever see me more." Thus saying, she opened the Door in a great Rage, and left him. *Parsons*, who had a *farther Game to play*, dressed himself, and went quietly out of the House, without any Interruption. But seeing *Lady Frail*, with some others in the *Park*, the next Day, he made up to her, and with a low Bow, shewing her the Snuff-Box, asked her if she knew whose it was: "Yes, said she; and if I may be allowed to guess the Lady's Sentiments, to whom it belongs, you must keep it as the *last Favour* you must *ever* expect from her; and yet, if you're a Man, you will be secret in all that's past." So, without giving him leave to answer, turn'd from him, and join'd her Company.

Parsons, while he lived in *Panton-Square*, contracted, at a Coffee-House, an Acquaintance with one Mr. *Northgate* of *Hammer-smith*, to whom he pleaded immediate Occasions for Money; that, at present, he was

a little low, on Account of his Wife's not being then at Age; that when she was, which would be in six Months, she would take Possession of ten thousand Pounds; that, till then, he should be a little necessitated; but, if he could get some Gentleman who would require no Premium, to lend him 400*l.* for half a Year, he would deposit (as a Security) in their Hands his Wife's Jewels, which were worth double that Sum. He so far wrought upon that Gentleman's Credulity, that he generously lent him the Money in Bills; and Mr. *Parsons* appointed him to dine with him three or four Days after, when he would deliver the Jewels: The Gentleman came at the appointed Time; but, to his great Surprize, he found the Doors shut up, and *Parsons* no where to be found.

In the Time of the late Rebellion, (being very poor, and obliged to shift from Place to Place, to screen himself from the Bailiffs, who were in Pursuit of him) he accidentally met with Mr. *St. J—*, a Gentleman well acquainted with his Family, who, pitying the Condition he represented himself
to

to be in, advised him to go into the Country to his Father or Brother, who he was certain, he said, would do something for him, and told him he had a Horse should be at his Service. *Parsons*, with a great deal of Complaisance, thanked him for his Offer, but said, his Circumstances were so low, he had not Money to defray his Expences down; on which, Mr. *St. J—* generously assisted him with twenty Guineas: But Mr. *Parsons's* Return for his Friend's Benevolence, was the basest Action, (with Sorrow he confess'd it) that ever he was guilty of. He repaired to the D— of N—, and gave in an Information, that Mr. *St. J—* was going into the Country, to raise Men for the Service of the Rebels; upon which he was apprehended; and a Piece of Paper, on which this unfortunate Gentleman had wrote the Number of a Lottery-Ticket, being found on him, *Parsons* peremptorily swore, that Mr. *St. J—* had shewn him that Paper before, as the Number of Men he was to raise for the Rebels. Upon this false Accusation, Mr. *St. J—* was in Custody many Months; nor had he, after

after he had regained his Liberty, ever any Reparation from his perfidious Friend, for the Loss of his Horse, (which *Parsons* had sold) Money, or Half-Pay, which was, on his Information, taken from him.

Some Time after this, he applied to Mr. *L—b*, a Taylor, telling him, he was recommended by a Gentleman, (mentioning his Name, whom he had lately made some Cloaths for; that he was going to be made a Captain in the Guards, a Commission being then preparing for that Purpose, for which he must have some new Cloaths, and, accordingly, bespoke some to a large Amount. Mr. *L—b* desiring to know where to carry them, when done, he gave him a Direction, and bid him inquire for Capt. *Brown*, for that was his Name; charging him, to bring his Bill, and he would pay him. As soon as he had finished them, they were carried home, and Mr. *L—b* brought the Bill, agreeable to his Orders. *Parsons* told him, he was sorry he had not so much Cash about him; that he should have some Remittance in a Day or two, and then he would send for him. Mr. *L—b*

H

was

was obliged to take this Answer ; but suspecting his new Customer, he enquired at the Office about Mr. *Brown*, and whether his going to have a Commission was true. He was told it was ; for *Parsons* had assumed a Gentleman's Name, who really had one making out for him. But the Captain never sending as he promised, and the Time greatly relapsed, he got an Action against him ; but taking it out by the Name of *Brown*, Mr. *L——b* was nonsuited.

Shortly after, *Parsons* was taken into the Messengers Hands, by a Contrivance of his own, to shelter himself from the continual Dunning of his Creditors. He spoke several disrespectful Words of his M——y, the G——t, &c. at the *Meuse* Coffee-house, which was reported by a Person, as before agreed on, to the D—— of —— on which he was ordered into the Custody of a Messenger ; and where, being out of their Power, he tantalized over several of his Creditors that came there to see him, especially Mr. *L——b*.

After *Parsons* had left *Panton-Square*, he took Lodgings, by the Name of Captain
Brown

Brown, at *Mr. Toms's* in *Gough-Square*, where pretending he was a single Man, and by promising Marriage, debauched Miss — a young Lady about Seventeen, and had a Child by her. When her Father died, she went to live at her Uncle's *Mr. G—e* of *Salisbury*, but *Parsons* followed and deluded her back again. She was with him while in *Maidstone Goal*, also when he returned to *England*, and for a Debt of his, is now, and was (during his whole Confinement) in *Newgate*. 'Tis Pity the unfortunate young Lady's Relations in the Country, do not take Compassion on her, and relieve her from those Miseries attending her in such a Prison, with scarce any Subsistence.

But to return, *Parsons* had not been long at *Mr. Toms's*, before he began his ill Practices with several of his new Neighbours; he took in *Mr. Moody*, then a Sword Cutler at *Temple-Bar*, for two fine Swords, valued at thirty Guineas; he ordered them to his Lodging at *Mr. Toms's*, but *Mr. Moody* could never after get a Sight of him. He likewise had Cloth, to the Amount of

nine Pounds, of Mr. R——, a Woollen-Draper in *Fleet-street*, and appointed to meet him at the *Globe-Tavern*, in the same Street, to pay him; but *Parsons* never went near him.

He tricked a certain Clergyman in a very extraordinary Manner: He told him he was going to be married to a Lady of a large Fortune, but who desired it might be done with the utmost Privacy. The Rev. Gentleman promised to perform the Office, and the Day was set, when *Parsons* waited on the Clergyman at his House, and they both went together to a Tavern near *Pall-mall*, where was an old Woman, and the Lady (who was no other than a Man) in Waiting: The Ceremony was soon performed, after which *Parsons* desired to know of the Clergyman if he could recommend him to a Goldsmith thereabouts, as he proposed to present his Bride with a Ring. He told him he could, and sent for him to bring several Sorts. The Lady chose one worth above 100 Guineas. *Parsons* begg'd the Goldsmith to stay and drink a Glass of Wine, when presently the Bride went down
Stairs:

Stairs : She had not been long before *Parsons* seemed uneasy at her Stay, and pretended to go and see for her ; but instead of returning, hurried to the Clergyman's, and making an Excuse to the Servant to go in the Room where they were in the Morning, broke open a Bureau, and stole above fifty Pounds, with which he made clean off.

He went one Day to Mr. —, a Taylor in *Johnson's Court*, in *Fleet-street*, and bespoke two Suits of Mourning, agreeing to come such a Day and fetch them away, and pay him his Money directly : He came to his Time, and said he had not Cash enough about him, but appointed to meet Mr. — at Seven in the Evening, at the *Castle-Tavern*, *Lombard-street*. On which he let him have the Cloaths, but he was scarce gone an Hour, e're he (*Parsons*) sent him a Letter, that an unforeseen Accident prevented his meeting him, being obliged to go to *Hampstead* ; and he never saw him after, till in *Woodstreet* Compter for Forgery. Several other Pranks he play'd, but nothing meriting the Reader's Notice,
till

till the Fact for which he was condemned at *Rocheſter*.

He forged a Note in the Name of Mr. *Wm. Knight*, and paſſed it on Mrs. *Collins* of *Greenwich* as 'a true one, directing it to be paid at Meſſ. *Honeywood's* and *Fuller's*, Bankers, in *Lombard-ſtreet*, for which he was apprehended, and committed to *Wood-ſtreet Compter* in *Auguſt* 1748, and there remained till *March* the 5th following, when he was order'd to *Rocheſter*, where he was tried and condemn'd for the ſaid Forgery; but through the Intereſt of his Brother-in-Law, Mr. *Lambert* of *Kent*, he obtained a Reprieve for Transportation for Life.

During his Confinement in *Maidſtone-Goal*, his teeming Brain, to get ſome Money, preſented him with the following Stratagem: There was a Priſoner who had a Brother, a Man of Worth, who often viſited him: *Parſons* contracted an Acquaintance with him; to this Man he applied, and told him he had hid ſome Jewels in the Garden of an empty Houſe, next to where he had lodged at *Chelſea*; "They are worth,

Thomas Lambert Teller of *St. James's Church*

worth, said he, 200 *l.* but if you reveal it, they will, as I am under Sentence of the Law, be seized on by the Government, as forfeited. But, continued he, if you will give me 70 *l.* I will tell you *where* they are concealed." The deluded Man, believing him, paid him 50 *l.* in Part, and was to give him the rest when he had found the Treasure. As *Parsons* in a few Days was to be shipp'd for the Plantations, he directly set out; and at Night, by Moonlight, he dug to no Purpose, so returned without Success. He upbraided *Parsons*, and demanded Restitution: "Why, says he, which Side did you dig?" Such a one, says the Man: That, return'd *Parsons*, is the very opposite Side I told you; the other insisted on the contrary; but however, resolved to try again, he took Horse, and came to Town again, but met with the same Success as before, on which he hurried in the utmost Passion to *Parsons*, calling him all the Villains, &c. &c. He asked the Man, with a deal of Composure, how *deep* he might dig? Deep! replied he, why I dug a Foot: Shuh!

said

said *Parsons*; do you think I would bury Things of that Value so shallow that a Hog might rout them up? So, telling him the very Spot, bid him dig a Yard deep: Accordingly he came to Town again, and while he was busy in a fruitless Search, *Parsons* was shipp'd for the Plantations, on board the *Thames*, Capt. *Dobbins*.

During the Voyage, *Parsons* had Liberty to mess with the second Mate; but he was highly offended with the Captain for refusing to let him eat at his Table; and being very scurrilous to him for this Act of Civility, he was used like the other Transports, till the arrived in *Putuxen* River, in *Maryland*.

During his Stay there, the Lord *Fairfax* took him into his own House, used him like his Son, and let him have a Horse to ride at his Pleasure; but, unhappily, Mr. *Parsons* could not be content with his present Situation, but left his Patron, committed some Robberies, and forged a Note upon one Mr. *John Anderson* for 70 l. *Currency*, and accordingly received the same. He immediately embarked for *England*,
and

and he immediately embarked for *England*. After a short Passage, he landed at *Whitehaven* in *July* last; at which Place, he again began his old Pranks.

He went to a Merchant there, and pretended, with seeming Concern, that his Father was dead, that he was now a Baronet, and should soon be in Possession of a large Fortune. With these artful Insinuations, he prevailed on the Merchant to supply him with 75*l.* which he did, by a Draught on Mr. —, a Banker in *London*. He set out accordingly, and on his Arrival, went to the Banker's aforesaid, where producing the Draught, he received the Money. Whilst that lasted, he lived retired near *Hyde-Park Corner*; but as he durst not appear at the Gaming-Tables, for fear of being known, he thought it more safe to rob on the Highway, which Project he put in Execution. He robb'd several People, but always in the Night, between *Turnham-Green* and *Hounslow-Heath*; but as nothing remarkable happened during these Robberies, it is immaterial to give a Detail of the particular Circumstances: Therefore, waving
I that,

that, we shall proceed to the Manner of his being taken: He having Information of a Person's travelling with a large Sum, and that he would go over *Hounslow-Heath*, on the *Sunday* following, very early, which was the 2d of *Sept.* last, he resolved to attack him. Accordingly, he set out on his last fatal Expedition: Just on *Turnham-Green*, he overtook Mr. *Best* and Mr. *Fuller* in a Post-Chaise, [who was his Prosecutor for the Forgery, for which he was transported] *Parsons* looking into the Chaise, his Eyes and Mr. *Fuller's* encountered each other; Mr. *Fuller* knew him directly, as did he that Gentleman; when he, hovering about them, the Gentlemen bid him keep his Distance. *Parsons* rode on thro' *Brentford*, between which and *Hounslow* (at *Smallberry-Green*) he loiter'd till they again passed by him; and so dogg'd them, sometimes before, and sometimes behind; at which Time, a Person appeared on Horseback, which 'tis thought, prevented his Designs against them. When they were got into the Town, the above-mentioned Gentlemen bid him surrender; on which, *Par-*
sons

sons alighted, and begg'd, with much Submissiveness, to speak to them in private.— They went to the *Rose and Crown*, and there, in a Room by themselves, he delivered his Pistols, telling them he relied on their Mercy. But Mr. *Day*, Master of the Inn, observing *Parsons* answer'd the Description of a Highwayman who infested that Road, Mr. *Fuller* secured him. There was found in his Pocket a Quantity of Powder and Ball. He was carried before a Justice, who, on examining him, committed him to *Newgate*.

His Behaviour while there, which was five Months, is in many Respects to be spoken well of. He had many Friends to see him, who, tho' they had all Liquor to drink, *Parsons* was never seen disguised the whole Time; nor was he addicted to Swearing, as no one ever heard an Oath from him during his Confinement. But, on the other Hand, he took little Care of his Futurity, still buoying himself up with the Assurance of his being, at least, re-transported, if not pardon'd; to which Purpose he wrote several Letters, Petitions,

tions, &c. viz. to his M——y, to Lord L——n, to his Father, his Wife, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Lambert and his Lady (his Brother and Sister) in Kent, Mr. B——n, &c. &c. From his Father he had several Answers; in one he informed him he had apply'd to his Grace the D—e of D——e, at his Seat at Ch—dw—th in Derbyshire, that his Grace had wrote to Lord H——n about it, but there was no Hopes of saving him. Agreeable to his Petition to Lord L——n, he spoke to his Grace the D—e of N——e, and he to his M——y in C—l, but he was thought too deserving Death to merit a Reprieve. It would be tedious to the Reader to *peruse* the Letters, or *even* the *Substance* of any more, as they all tend to the same Purpose, viz. that of saving his Life. But all Endeavours proved in vain; for, pursuant to his Sentence, he on Feb. 11, 1750-1, suffered for all his past Crimes with the utmost Appearance of a sincere Repentance.



The

*The following Verses were sent to Mr. PAR-
SONS by a Person unknown.*

PARSONS! forgive a too-officious Friend,
Who Censure scorns, and yet would fain commend;
Inert my Numbers are, unskill'd my Lays,
Alike too weak, to give or merit Praise.
Born with a manly Heart——of noble Blood,
Happy thy Genius, and thy Temper good,
Sweet Science willing woo'd thee to her Breast,
But pitchy Clouds thy mid-day Sun o'ercaſt;
Black riſing Tempeſts furrow up thy Brow,
Pardon or Death muſt ſet thee free from Woe.

What boots it now, that Fuller's * gen'rous Smile
Bemoans thy Lot, and would thy Cares beguile;
With Chriſtian Pity grieves thy hapleſs State,
And longs to ſave thee from impending Fate?
Say, gen'rous Youth, what Joy can Being give,
When he who gave you Life, forgets you live †;
With ſpecious Virtue acts the Stoic's Part,
And ſeems to ſhut thee from a Father's Heart:
Sees thee oppreſs'd with Want, Care, Pain, and Scorn,
With Ills——which make it Miſ'ry to be born.

Our ductile Paſſions, led by Nature, ſtray
From Reaſon's Dictates, and from Safety's Way;
Such is the Star too oft the young await,
Doom'd to lament thoſe Sorrows they create.
Thro' Life's uncertain Mazes wildly run,
Deluded on, and proud to be undone;
So Wilmot's Reaſon was o'erpow'r'd by Vice,
So Wharton was a Slave to weak Caprice.

Yet

* Mr. Fuller (Banker in Lombard-ſtreet) who is this unhappy Gentleman's Proſecutor, has frequently, with his wonted Benevolence and Humanity, endeavoured to alleviate the Miſeries and Confinement, by relieving his Diſtreſs, and promiſing him all the Aſſiſtance in his Power, to ſpare his Life.

† He wrote to his Father for Supplies, but he being informed that he was in no Want, wrote to Mr. Brewerton, in St. James's-ſtreet, to tell his Son, that there was no Hopes of his being ſaved, but if he would have a Divine, he would order him one, but as for any other Supply, he muſt not expect he would ſupport him in Extravagance.

Yet these are Foibles by blind Nature wrought,
Mix'd in our Frame, and heighten'd to a Fault,
Which Prudence cannot cure, or Knowledge teach,
A wrangling Gangrene beyond Friendship's Reach;
They hang upon our Mind with Bias strong,
And imperceptibly direct us wrong.

Wilt thou then, *Parsons!* now forgive a Muse,
Who points out Failings where she can't accuse?
Like thee amidst tumultuous Sorrows tost,
Oppress'd with Grief, and by Misfortunes crost;
O'erwhelm'd with Misery, with Pain and Care,
Too bold to yield, too manly to despair,
Still willing—tho' so often cheated, to depend
On *Hope*, and trust the Phantom to the End.
Yet if that Justice sternly signs thy Doom,
Give me to pay this Tribute at thy Tomb,
And there let ever-verdant Myrtle bloom.
Let fragrant Flow'rs for ever bud around;
And thy Faults sleep beneath th' enamell'd Ground;
Each Passion lost, thy youthful Nature sway'd,
Each devious Step conceal'd—those Passions made;
Let kind Indulgence ev'ry Frailty blot,
Thy Virtues live—thy Failings all forgot.

So, when the whistling Winds, and rattling Hail,
The tender Sapling's verdant Head assail;
Pliant at first to ev'ry Blast it bows,
And whirling Leaves in giddy Eddies flows.
At length, unable to resist the Storm,
It's spreading Roots from out the Earth up-torn;
Forc'd to submit beneath oppressive Woe,
Upon the Plain the thriving Plant's laid low.

F I N I S.

N. B. It would have filled up a large Volume
to have recounted all his Pranks; but the Editor
flatters himself, this contains a fuller Account than
any thing yet published concerning him: He is,
however, conscious that there may have been some
Things related not directly in their due Order of
Time, but hopes (as they are all Truths, and most
of them to be proved by living Witnesses) the Reader
will pass with Candour over those little Mistakes.

